

Title: Collateral Damage

Author: Vidish's interpreter

Vidish was alone and
enjoying the silence. It
never bothered him to be
alone in the woods
outside Cove, and it
doesn't bother him now to
be alone in the woods
outside Umbra. These

woods were much more
quiet than the ones he
was accustomed to, the
animals were far more
scarce and the trees far
less living. All any of this
meant was that there
were less distractions

while he studied the book
given to him by Fiona
D'Rue.

The silence was broken
by a loud gutteral call
becoming far too familiar.
It was Grash-Nak calling
him to assemble. Once

back to the fort he saw
only a few of his clan
just enough to give the
"Sneekies" trouble. His
orders were to wait for
the others to show and
send them to the
"Sneekies" dojo. Sitting on

his ridgeback waiting for
the others gave him time
to reflect.

The "Sneekies" known
to the humans as Blue
Lotus or ninjas, had
become the focus of
battle due to their

constant will to fight.
The only time the humans
stood up to the orcs was

when they knew they could count on the "Sneekies" to help them. What had the orcs done to provoke the ninjas?

Nothing, much the same as with Moonglow or Sanctus. From the first day out of Cove the humans had treated the orcs with so much disrespect it was sickening. The only ones

who treated them well were the undead. The Lich Lord, Darrien Church himself, showed more appreciation for the orcs than any human or elf. It was the constant disrespect leading the

orcs after Sanctus. And Moonglow? Well Moonglow was as much business as it was personal. It seemed like every night that they were on the island, normally looking for someone or to cause

trouble for the Lich Lord. Truthfully Vidish was getting sick of fighting every night. His only interest in Moonglow was the literature he knew was there.

Malabelle's house was supposed to be on the Island somewhere as well as a library full of books he hadn't even heard of yet. Either way things were happening and he wasn't in a position to change them.

After sending a few returning orcs to towards the dojo Vidish decided it was time for him to go. As usual he needed to restock his potions, conflagration and explosion potions were a must. Since learning

alchemy from one of the books he'd found, the want to practice his bombing was the only fun in battle. Before he was even to the bank in Zento he could see the orcs of his clan. They were standing in front of the building on the other side of the town wall, but he couldn't see how many ninjas were opposing them. The idea that he would be able to see them all was fairly stupid anyway, but he was told to come ready to fight, and that was the plan.

By the time that he did get to the dojo there was already one casualty and a mess of broken items. Apparently Grash had given the order to destroy the dojo. Looking through the dojo there were plenty of menus and more books. They looked like news and a few about the Blue Lotus themselves. A mass of confusion led to happy times for a distracted orc. He looked up from a menu at the sound of "Clomp dis humie" reacting too quickly he set off more than a couple bombs at his own feet and one in his pack. Excitement had nearly caused him to comit suicide. That cannot happen again.